



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

August 17, 2007

Reply To

Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 06-074-AFS

Rick Brazell, Forest Supervisor  
Department of Agriculture - U. S. Forest Service  
Colville National Forest  
765 South Main  
Colville, WA 99114

Dear Mr. Brazell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed **Old Curlew Ranger Station Facilities Disposal** (CEQ No. 20070310) in the Colville National Forest. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Section 309 specifically directs the EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions. Under our Section 309 authority, our review of the draft EIS prepared for the proposed project will consider the expected environmental impacts and the adequacy of the EIS in meeting procedural and public disclosure requirements of NEPA.

We appreciate that the EIS specifically identifies EPA's issues raised during scoping as well as concerns raised by others. The document provides a thorough discussion of the Purpose and Need and of the facilities that would be disposed. The EIS also analyzes the potential of the facility to be listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places and we support the mitigation measures discussed to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act. We have assigned a rating of LO (Lack of Objection) to the draft EIS. This rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the Federal Register.

The EIS discusses hazardous materials that were found at various locations on the property that were cleaned up or are below levels requiring remediation. The EIS also states that there is a water quality concern associated with a drainage ditch potentially due to run off from the past use of petroleum vehicles; however the levels are below the Washington State Method A cleanup goals. We support the disclosure of potential contamination, even for areas where the environmental risk is low, to potential buyers. We also recommend providing them information and references about who to contact and how to conduct testing as well as information about cleanup for lead paint, asbestos, oil, and other harmful substances that the buyer may want to remove or that may require future cleanup.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft EIS. If you have questions or comments concerning our review, please contact Lynne McWhorter at (206) 553-0205 or me at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
NEPA Review Unit